

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sweeping appliance comprising a housing having a dirt receiving opening, roller means on which the housing is supported and a rotary brush having a plurality of resilient bristles, a lowermost region of the brush touching a surface to be cleaned, wherein deflecting means are arranged adjacent the brush and extending into the bristles at an angular distance behind the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned relative to a direction of rotation, so that as the brush rotates, the bristles are held behind the deflecting means until their resilience causes them to spring past said deflecting means in a flicking movement during which the bristles strike over said surface to be cleaned.
2. (Original) A sweeping appliance according to claim 1 wherein the roller means comprise a first pair of wheels and a second pair of wheels all engaging the surface to be cleaned.
3. (Original) A sweeping appliance according to claim 2 wherein the rotary brush is coaxial with and connected to the first pair of wheels to rotate therewith.
4. (Original) A sweeping appliance according to claim 1 wherein the deflecting means is a blade-like edge or member unitarily formed with or joined to the housing.
5. (Currently Amended) A sweeping appliance according to claim 4 wherein the blade-like edge or member is disposed to engage the bristles so that they move through an angular distance [[ob]]of about 90° as they spring past said blade-like edge or member.

6. (Original) A sweeping appliance according to claim 1 wherein the rotary brush comprises a central member from which the bristles radially extend.

7. (Currently Amended) A sweeping appliance comprising:

a housing having a forwardly facing edge and a rearwardly facing edge and defining a dirt receiving enclosure, a dirt receiving opening being formed in the housing and leading to the dirt receiving enclosure;

rollers supporting the housing;

a rotary brush provided proximate the dirt receiving opening having a plurality of resilient bristles with a lower region of the rotary brush touching a surface to be cleaned;

a deflector provided adjacent the brush on a forwardly-facing side thereof and extending rearwardly into the bristles at an angular distance from the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned, the deflector being configured to halt the progress of the bristles until the brush rotates sufficiently to force the bristles past forward of the deflector, such that the resilience of the bristles causing them to spring past forward of the deflector in a flicking movement during which the bristles strike over the surface to be cleaned.

8. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 7, wherein the rollers comprise a first pair of wheels positioned at a forward portion of the housing and a second pair of wheels positioned at a rearward portion of the housing, the first and second pair of wheels engaging the surface to be cleaned.

9. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 8, wherein the rotary brush is coaxial with and connected to the first pair of wheels to rotate therewith.

10. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 7, wherein the deflector is a blade-like member.

11. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 10, wherein the blade-like member is unitarily formed with the housing.

12. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 10, wherein the blade-like member is joined to the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 10, wherein the blade-like member is disposed to engage the bristles so that the bristles move through an angular distance of approximately 90° as they spring past the deflector.

14. (Previously Presented) The sweeping appliance of claim 7, wherein the rotary brush comprises a central member from which the bristles radially extend.

15. (Currently Amended) The sweeping appliance of claim 7, wherein [a] the lower region of the housing is configured to contact the surface to be cleaned, the lower region being [is] bent downwards to form a ramp.

16. (New) A sweeping appliance comprising:

a housing having a dirt receiving opening and a ramp adjacent the opening;

rollers supporting the housing;

a rotary brush provided proximate the dirt receiving opening and having a plurality of resilient bristles, the rotary brush having a lower region wherein the bristles touch said surface to be cleaned;

a deflector provided adjacent the brush and at an angular position from the point at which the bristles touch the surface to be cleaned, the deflector being configured to halt the progress of the bristles until the brush rotates sufficiently to force the bristles past the deflector, such that resilience of the bristles causes them to spring past the deflector over the surface to be cleaned, the bristles striking dirt particles on said surface and then sweeping the dirt particles up the ramp.

17. (New) A sweeping appliance according to claim 16 wherein the roller comprises a first pair of wheels and a second pair of wheels all engaging the surface to be cleaned.

18. (New) A sweeping appliance according to claim 17 wherein the rotary brush is coaxial with and connected to the first pair of wheels to rotate therewith.

19. (New) A sweeping appliance according to claim 16 wherein the deflector is a blade-like edge or member unitarily formed with or joined to the housing.

20. (New) A sweeping appliance according to claim 16 wherein the rotary brush comprises a central member from which the bristles radially extend.